

# Curtenius Guard

## Camp #17

<http://suvcw.org/mi/017/017home.htm>

### Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
Samuel W. Grinnell  
GAR Post #283 Hall  
115 Main Street  
Sunfield, Michigan

#### I. Opening Ritual:

Camp Commander George Roux opened the meeting per the Ritual at 7:02 PM.

#### II. Roll Call:

**Brothers Present:** Arnold, Bankhead, Bauer, Benedict, G. Copenhaver, T. Copenhaver, Harrington, K. Harrison, Hodges, Hoffman, Holcomb, MacVean, J.B. Pahl, Payne, Peabody, Rehkoph, Roux, Shull, B. Shumway, Tooker, and Traub.

**Brothers Excused:** Armstrong, Bennetts, L. Coons, Emerick, Haines, Hamilton, N. Harrison, Hilts, Langworthy, Nash, J.A. Pahl, Reckline, Rousseau, J. Shumway, Thomas, Zank, and Zowe.

Guests included Ray Lake, Camp Commander of George Anderson Camp #58 in DeWitt.

**III. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as transmitted; motion passed.

**IV. Concern for Brothers:** It was reported that Brother Harrington lost his father. Brother Langworthy was reported as doing well and should be going home, hopefully, next week. It was reported that Brother Reckline's mother-in-law suffered a heart attack and that his mother was hospitalized. It was reported that Brother John Shumway suffered a seizure earlier today and he felt it best that he not attend tonight's meeting.

#### V. Treasure Report:

The Treasurer's report is attached. A motion was made and seconded to

approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

#### VI. New Members and Initiations:

No new members were brought forth for initiation.

#### VII. Committee Reports:

**Camp Council** – No report.

**Bylaws** – No report.

**Memorials and Graves Registration** – It was reported that the Department's Graves Registration committee met last month. Twenty names were provided to the Department's Graves Registration officer last month and an additional 24 will be presented next month. In response to a question, it was indicated that each meeting, each Camp gets an updated computer disk with an updated listing of all the grave registrations. The disk is subsequently given to the Camp Secretary for placement onto his computer. The Camp currently has an updated graves registration disk as of March 12th.

**GAR Monuments** – Nothing to report.

**Eagle Scouts Certificates** – Camp Commander Roux reported that he attended one court of honor since the last Camp meeting. Brother Bankhead reported that he did one ceremony in Charlotte last month and that he was given two names of Eagle Scouts from Sunfield that somehow were overlooked. Certificates will be prepared and sent to these two scouts.

**Membership** – No report.

**Veterans' Day** – No report.

**Military Affairs** – No report.

**Patriotic Instruction:** - It was indicated that the Camp's Patriotic Instructor's report was submitted to Department in February.

**Program and Publicity** – It was reported that the next Camp's Civil War Sesquicentennial Seminar will take place Tuesday night April 26th at 7 PM at the Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield. Brother Mark Hoffman will be presenting a program entitled, *Michigan Engineers & Mechanics*. Copies of his

book will be present at the Seminar for purchase. Brother Hoffman indicated that he would be willing to donate a couple of copies of his book to the Camp.

**Hall Restoration** – Brother Arnold indicated that he still working on resolution of the leak above the front door in the hall. A roofer looked at the area (again) and did some additional work. We will need to take a wait to see if the additional work fixed the problem or not. It also was reported that the reverse of the false front still is need of work. An Amish craftsman has looked at the area and we are awaiting a bid to see what it would cost to repair this area.

**Memorial Day Activities** – It was reported that the Camp is scheduled to either conduct or participate in its normal Memorial Day weekend programs on Saturday (May 28th) at Mt Hope Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery, and on Sunday (May 29th) at the DUVCW ceremony in Sunfield. Details will be forthcoming later on these programs. A motion was made to donate \$25.00 to the bugler for services rendered during the Memorial Day program at Mt Hope Cemetery; motion passed. Another (conflicting) Saturday (May 28th) program has been requested of us to do a parade and cemetery program in Grand Ledge. We are looking at also doing the Woodland ceremony, which generally takes place sometime during the Memorial Day week; however, nothing has been firmed up on this yet. Camp Commander Roux indicated that the Camp will hold its normal Camp meeting on May 30th at the Hall, but instead of doing the Memorial Day program outside the Hall, the Camp will go to Welsh Cemetery and conduct a program at the gravesite of Samuel Grinnell.

**Grinnell Award.** No report.

#### VIII. Orders and Communications:

Camp Commander Roux referenced receipt of Commander-in-Chief Schall's General Orders 10 and 11, dealing with the wearing of the new Civil War Sesquicentennial badge and the passing of Corporal Frank Buckles, the last known World War I veteran, respectively.

A question arose regarding the Order's

Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Events and the obtaining of the Civil War Sesquicentennial badge. Brother Arnold indicated that a Brother can obtain the badge by participating in an approved Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Concern was expressed regarding the overly involved and highly complicated nature of the Order's Signature events.

#### **IX. Unfinished Business:**

The Camp's Special Eaton County Heritage Conference Committee reported that it has located a facility close to the Hall where the conference could be held. A motion was made and seconded to hold the conference (at a cost of \$150 to rent the facility), at the Centennial Ackers Golf; motion passed. It was indicated that the facility has a kitchen and would be able to cater the conference with each participant paying for his/her own food. While all the details still need to be worked out, it is envisioned that the Conference would take place from 9 AM to 1 PM with speakers (topics pertinent to Eaton County) followed by lunch and then a tour of the Hall. A date has to be selected yet.

Brother Harrison reported on the Civil War Sesquicentennial program. He referenced the 113 Sesquicentennial Events listed on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website at <http://www.7thmichigan.us/conference/2011events.htm> and, in particular, the upcoming Civil War exhibit openings at Michigan State University Museum (April 10th) and the Michigan Historical Center (April 12th). Also referenced was the upcoming April 16th Michigan Historical Center Sesquicentennial Kickoff event, which will be held inside the Center (Display and information tables in the rotunda and the Civil War exhibit in the Museum) and outside the state Library/Museum (one-day Civil War Living History). Brother Dave Arnold asked volunteers to help staff the Department's Information display at the Center.

#### **X. New Business:**

Camp Commander Roux referenced the upcoming April 16 Abraham Lincoln Tomb Observance Program in Springfield, Illinois. Brothers Pahl, Shull, and Harrison will be attending.

He also referenced the upcoming May 21st Michigan Department Encampment, which will be held in Lansing. He requested that the Camp Secretary email the registration information contained in the recent *Michigan's Messenger* to the Camp in two weeks following this Camp meeting. The upcoming National Encampment, which will be held in Virginia in August, also was mentioned.

#### **XI. Good of the Order:**

Camp Treasurer Pahl requested permission to start, in conjunction with Camp Secretary Zank, a Camp page on Facebook. Permission was granted.

On behalf of Charles Langworthy, Ron Shull presented a 9'6" x 5' 50-star flag to the Camp for use at Mt Hope Cemetery and the annual Memorial Day program conducted by the Camp. Camp Historian Harrison took charge of the flag as he has the other flags that are used for that program.

Ray Lake - DeWitt Camp Commander invited the Camp to attend the June 11 (1 PM) grave rededication program of a Civil War soldier buried in St Johns. More information will be provided to the Camp on this at a later date. In addition, the information will be placed on to the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' Civil War Sesquicentennial Event Listing.

Reference was made to an upcoming program presentation on the battle of Antietam at the Gerald R. Fort Presidential Museum. The presentation will be made by the current park ranger in charge of the Antietam National Battlefield. Additional information on this event may be found on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' Civil War Sesquicentennial Event Listing.

Pass the hat netted \$71.00.

After considerable discussion on how to use money provided to the Camp from Gleaners, a motion was made and seconded to use \$100 of the money received from Gleaners to purchase a coffee pot and supplies; motion passed.

Brother Arnold donated \$20.00 to be placed into a Benevolent fund to be used to pay for dues of Brothers who cannot pay their dues due unforeseen

circumstances and who request this consideration from the Camp.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to place the collected Pass the hat funds into the newly created Benevolent Fund for the purpose designated by the Benevolent fund (i.e., to be used to pay for dues of Brothers who cannot pay their dues due unforeseen circumstances and who request this consideration from the Camp); motion passed (10 Aye to 9 Nay).\*\*\* (see emails below)

**XII. Closing Ritual:** The Camp was closed per Ritual at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted in  
Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, PCinC  
Camp Secretary (*Pro temp*)  
(pcinc@prodigy.net)

---

\*\*\* **Email #1:**

**Subject: Camp Benevolent fund  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:46 PM  
From: Jim Pahl  
To: George Roux  
Cc: Keith Harrison, Ron Shull,  
Dennis Zank**

*Brother Commander George:*

*This email is to serve as official notice to the Camp Commander, the Camp Secretary and the Camp Council that as Treasurer of the Camp, I must take exception to action of the Camp at the meeting just concluded. Please let me recite the facts as I remember them.*

*At that meeting, a motion was made and seconded to divert the "Pass the Hat" funds from the Hall Restoration Fund and place it into the newly created Camp Benevolent Fund. I note this action was taken after the hat was passed and everyone had contributed that choose to do so.*

*Those who contributed to the pass the hat, did so with the understanding the funds were to be deposited into the Hall Restoration Fund. The vote to divert the money so collected - done after the money was collected - was not unanimous. In fact, the vote was divided and after objection, a show of hands showed the vote to be nine in favor, nine against. The Camp Commander then*

*cast the deciding vote in favor of the motion.*

*I had not had a chance to think through this situation, but on the drive home, had time to collect my thoughts. I believe this action violates both state and federal trust & non-profit law. The money was collected for one purpose and then diverted to another purpose without the consent of some of those who contributed.*

*Under the Constitution and Regulations of the Order and consistent with my understanding of the law, as Treasurer of the Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I am giving notice that I cannot legally deposit the funds collected under the "Pass the Hat" into the Benevolent Fund. I am going to deposit them into the Hall Restoration Fund and then intend to bring this to the attention of the Camp brothers at the next meeting. I will object to the adoption of the minutes of tonight's meeting until the record is corrected and either the Camp Commander declares the motion, second and vote to be out of*

*order, or the Camp brothers so direct the record to be corrected.*

*In fraternity, charity and loyalty,  
James B. Pahl, PCinC  
Treasurer, Curtenius Guard Camp #17*

**Email: #2**  
**Subject: Camp Benevolent fund**  
**Sunday, April 3, 2011 2:38 AM**  
**From:"George Roux"**  
**To:"Ronald Shull", "Jim Pahl"**  
**Cc:"Dennis Zank"**

*Brothers,*

*To re-establish peace and harmony and avoid controversy and to do things in proper order, I fully yield to your judgment and concur with the position of Honorable Brother Pahl, our treasurer and declare, by Roberts Rules or Order or the power invested in me as Camp Commander that the motion, the second and the vote taken, to after the fact place in the newly created benevolent fund the pass the hat proceeds from the camp meeting of March 29th, 2011 to be out of order due to its confusion, failure*

*to communicate and timing of the pass the hat issue and that it is subsequently void. I feel that this should be conveyed to the membership either before or when we meet again. I feel that if it is properly explained that there will be no controversy. Most people, unfortunately, are not as passionate about correctness as our treasurer. Would that we all would up our accuracy.*